IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the Application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of maintaining a two-byte identification field of an Internet protocol (IP) header of a packet, the packet being transmitted over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the ~~a~~ packet is permitted to be fragmented before being transmitted over the network, the network being a Gigabit Ethernet network; ~~and~~

setting a re-assembly timer to 30 seconds; and

using a non-unique identification number in the IP header if the packet is not permitted to be fragmented~~, the non-unique identification number being a number that all packets that are not to be fragmented have as an IP identification number~~.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein a bit is set in the IP header to indicate whether the packet is permitted to be fragmented.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the bit is set in a flag field of the IP header.

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for maintaining a two-byte identification field of an Internet protocol (IP) header of a packet, the packet being transmitted over a network, the computer program product comprising:

code means for determining whether the ~~a~~ packet is permitted to be fragmented before being transmitted over the network, the network being a Gigabit Ethernet network; ~~and~~

code means for setting a re-assembly timer to 30 seconds; and

code means for using a non-unique identification number in the IP header if the packet is not permitted to be fragmented~~, the non-unique identification number being a number that all packets that are not to be fragmented have as an IP identification number~~.

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim ~~8~~ 6 wherein a bit is set in the IP header to indicate whether the packet is permitted to be fragmented.

10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein the bit is set in a flag field of the IP header.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for maintaining a two-byte identification field of an Internet protocol (IP) header of a packet, the packet being transmitted over a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining whether the ~~a~~ packet is permitted to be fragmented before being transmitted over the network, the network being a Gigabit Ethernet network; ~~and~~

means for setting a re-assembly timer to 30 seconds; and

means for using a non-unique identification number in the IP header if the packet is not permitted to be fragmented~~, the non-unique identification number being a number that all packets that are not to be fragmented have as an IP identification number~~.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~13~~ 11 wherein a bit is set in the IP header to indicate whether the packet is permitted to be fragmented.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the bit is set in a flag field of the IP header.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system for maintaining a two-byte identification field of an Internet protocol (IP) header of a packet, the packet being transmitted over a network, the computer system comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data to determine whether the ~~a~~ packet is permitted to be fragmented before being transmitted over the network, the network being a Gigabit Ethernet network, to set a re-assembly timer to 30 seconds, and to use a non-unique identification number in the IP header if the packet is not permitted to be fragmented~~, the non-unique identification number being a number that all packets that are not to be fragmented have as an IP identification number~~

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim ~~18~~ 16 wherein a bit is set in the IP header to indicate whether the packet is permitted to be fragmented.

20. (Original) The computer system of Claim 19 wherein the bit is set in a flag field of the IP header.